United Nations S/2008/140

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 29 February 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 7 December 2007 (S/2007/725), and the accompanying note, and your letter dated 23 January 2008 (S/2008/41) and its annex, concerning the processing of letters of credit pertaining to the oil-for-food programme, have been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Security Council members continue to welcome the ongoing work of the United Nations Secretariat to bring to a complete and timely conclusion all outstanding issues related to the oil-for-food programme, which terminated on 31 December 2007.

Members of the Council note the action taken by you to implement the Council's decision in respect of the 17 letters of credit referred to in paragraph 16 of the note attached to your letter of 25 July 2007 (S/2007/476). They further note the transfer of $161 million of unencumbered funds to the Development Fund for Iraq as set out in your letter of 23 January 2008.

Council members take note of the status of the United Nations Iraq Account, and of the status of letters of credit as at 31 December 2007.

Council members welcome the positive developments between the United Nations Secretariat and the relevant ministries and authorities of the Government of Iraq at the Working Group meetings held in Amman on 20 and 21 November 2007 and from 7 to 17 January 2008.

Members of the Council call upon the Working Group to continue its efforts expeditiously to resolve all outstanding issues. In particular, Council members call upon the Government of Iraq and its Central Bank to transmit by 31 March 2008 the necessary confirmations of arrival of goods for which there are no commercial disputes or for which there are commercial disputes that can be resolved in the meantime.

08-25729 (E) 040308

The members of the Security Council also take note of your proposal to address unresolved issues, including the mechanism set out in paragraphs 17 to 65 of your note of 7 December 2007. Council members request a further comprehensive report from you no later than 15 March 2008 on progress achieved in reducing the number of outstanding letters of credit and any other outstanding issues. In the light of your report, Council members will consider the procedures to be adopted by the United Nations Secretariat and the Government of Iraq to ensure the appropriate conclusion of the programme.

(*Signed*) Ricardo Alberto **Arias**
President of the Security Council